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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 05109 311010Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 /119 W
----------055971 311945Z /64
R 310814Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO USMISSION GENEVA
SECSTATE WASHDC 3718
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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USMTN

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, TH, ID, MY, RP
SUBJECT: U.S. - PHILIPPINE BILATERAL TRADE TALKS

REF: GENEVA 04627

1. EMBASSY HAS ONCE AGAIN STRESSED TO DFA THAT TROPICAL PRODUCTS (TP) AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PASSING ALONG BELIEF OF U.S. MTN DEL THAT TP NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED PRIOR TO MAY. GOP REP REPLIED THAT PHILIPPINES WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE OF U.S. TEAM IN EAST ASIA TO HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WHICH WOULD COVER BOTH TP AND PHILIPPINE RESPONSES TO TABLED U.S. REQUESTS. EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT GOP WOULD PROBABLY RPT PROBABLY
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REQUEST BILATERAL TALKS WITH U.S. TEAM APRIL 24-26 IN MANILA. DFA SOURCE NOTED THAT THESE DATES MATCHED VERY WELL WITH REQUEST AMBASSADOR VEGA HAD MADE TO U.S. MTN DEL FOR TALKS ON APRIL 25-27 IN GENEVA. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD FORMAL REQUEST FOR TALKS AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED FROM DFA.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO MTN DEL COMMENT, PARA 4, REFTEL, WE BELIEVE GOP OFFICIALS CONCERNED HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO ENTER SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON TP (AND PRESUMABLY BROADER ISSUES RAISED IN MTN CONTEXT AS WELL). AT SAME TIME, GOP IS DETERMINED TO REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING AS LOYAL MEMBER OF GROUP OF 77 AND A COOPERATIVE PARTNER IN ASEAN. THIS CONFLICT BETWEEN SELF-INTEREST AND LDC AND ASEAN ROLE EXPLAINS ONLY PART OF GOP DIFFICULTIES WITH TP TALKS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT, FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS INCLUDING THE ELECTIONS, GOP OFFICIALS ARE HAVING TROUBLE PUTTING TOGETHER A NEGOTIATING POSITION. TRADE ISSUES IN QUESTION CUT ACROSS SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS HERE AND INVOLVE A NUMBER OF STRONG-MINDED OFFICIALS. IF TALKS ARE HELD IN GENEVA, AMBASSADOR VEGA WILL CERTAINLY HEAD GOP DELEGATION. IN MANILA, GOP DEL COULD BE HEADED BY TRADE UNDERSECRETARY VALDEPENAS. THIS CHANGING CAST OF CHARACTERS ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO UNCERTAINTY WHICH IS PLAGUING TP TALKS. HOPEFULLY, VEGA WILL PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS HELD AND, THUS, PROVIDE SOME CONTINUITY. WHILE VEGA'S PERIPATETIC WAYS DO NOT RPT NOT MAKE CONTINUITY HIS STRONG SUIT, WE SEE NO OTHER CHOICE FOR THE ROLE. EMBASSY HAS ASKED THAT DFA PROVIDE LIST OF GOP TEAM FOR BILATERAL TALKS AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TRADE, TROPICAL PRODUCTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978034/aaaaacuk.tel
Line Count: 95
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac76c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. - PHILIPPINE BILATERAL TRADE TALKS
TAGS: ETRD, TH, ID, MY, RP, MTN
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